

**What is Claimed is:**

1. A postage system for dispensing postage, receiving messages and retrieving messages, the system comprising:
  - a data center;
  - a population of postage metering systems that are in operative communication with the data center, a population of postage metering systems being located remote from the data center and geographically distributed; and
  - a control system in operative communication with the data center and the population, the control system for:
    - receiving an incoming telephone call at one postage metering system of the population of postage metering systems;
    - storing a voice message associated with the telephone call; and
    - retrieving the voice message from another postage metering system of the population of postage metering systems.
2. The postage system of claim 1, wherein:
  - the control system is further for:
    - translating the voice message into a computer based text; and
    - printing a print message from the computer based text using the another postage metering system.
3. The postage system of claim 2, wherein:
  - the control system is further for:
    - parsing the computer based text to create special print characteristics within the print message to highlight critical data in response to a previously established parsing parameter set by an operator of the one postage metering system.

4. The postage system of claim 3, wherein:  
the previously established parsing parameter includes names as critical data and bold printing as the special print characteristic.
5. The postage system of claim 1, wherein:  
the control system is further for:  
storing the voice message and/or the computer based text on the one postage metering system; and  
uploading the voice message and/or the computer based text to the data center in accordance with upload preference data previously established by an operator of the one postage metering system.
6. The postage system of claim 4, wherein:  
the control system is further for:  
storing the voice message and/or the computer based text on the one postage metering system; and  
uploading the voice message and/or the computer based text to the data center in accordance with upload preference data previously established by the operator of the one postage metering system.
7. The postage system of claim 6, wherein:  
the control system is further for:  
uploading the voice message and/or the computer based text to the data center in accordance with upload preference data previously established by the operator of the one postage metering system.

8. A method of operating a postage system for receiving and retrieving a message, the method comprising the step(s) of:
- distributing a population of postage metering systems that are in operative communication with a data center, the population of postage metering systems being located remote from and in operative communication with the data center;
  - receiving an incoming telephone call at one postage metering system of the population of postage metering systems;
  - storing a voice message associated with the telephone call; and
  - retrieving the voice message from another postage metering system of the population of postage metering systems.
9. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step(s) of:
- translating the voice message into a computer based text; and
  - printing a print message from the computer based text using the another postage metering system.
10. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step(s) of:
- parsing the computer based text to create special print characteristics within the print message to highlight critical data in response to a previously established parsing parameter set by an operator of the one postage metering system.
11. The method of claim 10, wherein:
- the previously established parsing parameter includes names as critical data and bold printing as the special print characteristic.
12. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step(s) of:
- storing the voice message and/or the computer based text on the one postage metering system; and

uploading the voice message and/or the computer based text to the data center in accordance with upload preference data previously established by an operator of the one postage metering system.

13. The method of claim 11, further comprising the step(s) of:  
storing the voice message and/or the computer based text on the one postage metering system; and  
uploading the voice message and/or the computer based text to the data center in accordance with upload preference data previously established by an operator of the one postage metering system.
14. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step(s) of:  
uploading the voice message and/or the computer based text to the data center in accordance with upload preference data previously established by the operator of the one postage metering system.:
15. A method of operating a data center for processing messages, the method comprising the step(s) of:  
receiving a message associated with an incoming telephone call, the message accepted by one postage metering system of the population of postage metering systems, the population being remotely located and geographically distributed from the data center;  
receiving a request from another postage metering system of the population of postage metering systems to retrieve the message; and  
transmitting the message to the another postage metering system.
16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step(s) of:  
translating the message into a computer based text; and  
generating a print message from the computer based text using the another postage metering system.

17. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step(s) of:  
parsing the computer based text to create special print characteristics  
within the print message to highlight critical data in response to a  
previously established parsing parameter set by an operator of the one  
postage metering system.
18. The method of claim 17, wherein:  
the previously established parsing parameter includes names as critical  
data and bold printing as the special print characteristic.